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PP RUEHDBU  
DE RUEHNT #0325 0441248  
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P 131248Z FEB 06  
FM AMEMBASSY TASHKENT  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5159  
INFO RUEHTA/AMEMBASSY ALMATY 7615  
RUEHAH/AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT 1727  
RUEHEK/AMEMBASSY BISHKEK 2252  
RUEHDBU/AMEMBASSY DUSHANBE 2144  
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 6543  
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE 1663

C O N F I D E N T I A L TASHKENT 000325

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/10/2016  
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [UZ](#)  
SUBJECT: FREEDOM HOUSE APPEAL DENIED

REF: A) Tashkent 121, B) Tashkent 55

Classified by Amb. Jon R. Purnell for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

11. (U) On February 7, Freedom House lost its appeal of an Uzbek court order issued January 11 suspending its operations for six months (Ref A). After deliberating for approximately seven minutes, the appeals court also upheld the decisions to forward allegations that Freedom House illegally operated an unlicensed Internet connection to the prosecutor's office for criminal investigation. Freedom House may appeal this latest decision to the Chief Judge of the Tashkent Court and then to the Civil Collegium of the Supreme Court. However, Freedom House activities in Uzbekistan are now suspended, as further appeals will not stay the judgment.

12. (C) Comment: So far, this case has more or less followed the pattern established by the Internews and IREX cases. If the trend continues, we can expect prosecutors to begin a criminal investigation against Freedom House staff in the near future. It also is possible that the GOU might decide to speed the process up by using the new criminal and administrative code amendments (Ref B) to allege that Freedom House should be closed permanently based on repeated violations of the law. Either way, Freedom House is well on its way to eventual liquidation.

PURNELL